

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1-2, 4-10, 13-14 and 17-22, and claims 3, 11, and 23-31 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-10, 13-14 and 17-22 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 2-10 and 17-21 were objected to as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims to correct the deficiencies. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10 were objected to because each are dependent method claims that modifies something other than a "method" recited in the independent claim 1. The Applicant has amended the claims. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-21 were objected because of unacceptable language. The Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 17-22 are rejected because they are directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicant has amended the claims to correct the subject matter and respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the amended claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 17-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wei et al (JMS: A Flexible Collaborative Environment). Claims 3, 11, and

23-31 have been canceled. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims.

The Wei reference discloses a system having a central JMS server with dedicated functions that are a "core part of the whole system", "acts as a router" and keeps track of the system state information (page 198, paragraph 2). All communication travels between users via the JMS server (page 193, paragraph 2, lines 4-5). In the Wei reference, the floor holder (comparable to the Applicant's session controller) sends its messages to the floor controller via the JMS server. The communications between the JMS server, the session controller and the floor controller are indirect. (Fig. 2, page 197 of Wei).

The floor controller of Wei is not a separate network component different from the session controlling network component as in the Applicant's disclosure. The Applicant discloses and claims the floor controller as transforming session control instructions into session control commands which the data source can understand. This transformation step is not disclosed in the Wei reference. And, the Applicant discloses "session control" as controlling a single application, namely the data source (page 2, lines 26-28 and lines 36-38). A user exerting session control is able to influence the application in a shared environment while a user that doesn't have session control is not able to influence the application.

In contrast to the teachings of Wei, the Applicant's invention solves the problem of operating a floor controlling system without a determined central server and without the need to have local copies of the application on each network component. The present invention does not require an equivalent to the JMS server.

Unlike the Wei reference the Applicant's disclosure, as claimed, may advantageously be implemented with a single floor controller for a set of computer network components, rather than having a floor manager associated with each user as in Wei (Wei, Fig. 2). In contrast with the Wei reference, by allowing the floor controller to select a network component to control the data source, direct access to the data source by another network component may be conferred, which allows the conferring

network component to leave the session without disruption to the other network components.

In summary, there are elements in the Applicant's claims that are not disclosed or taught in the Wei reference. The Wei reference fails to disclose a designated floor controller selecting a network component to control a data source. Wei also fails to disclose that the floor controller receives a control instruction from a previously selected network component (to which session control has been passed) and that the control instruction triggers the transmission of a transformed session control command to the data source. As these three elements, present in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 17 are not found in the Wei reference Thus, the Examiner has not provided a prima facie case as the art does not suggest the claimed invention. (MPEP 2142)

The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these independent claims and the respective depending claims 2-10, 14 and 18-22.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

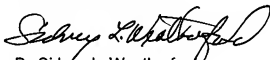
In paragraph 27 on page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 13, 2009

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